



Written Testimony Submitted to the Public Health Committee

***SB 848, AA Implementing the Provisions of the Budget
Concerning Public Health***

Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner

March 15, 2013

The Department of Social Services supports Section 6 of SB 848, An Act Implementing the Provisions of the Budget Concerning Public Health, regarding required criteria to be considered and findings to be made by the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) in the course of deliberations involving a certificate of need application (CON) filed by a health care facility.

Section 6 would expand and refine the current CON guidelines by requiring OHCA to make findings on the impact of the application on access to services for Medicaid recipients and other indigent individuals and on Medicaid program costs. The bill would establish good cause as a prerequisite to a reduction in access to services to Medicaid recipients, which could not be established solely on the basis of differences in reimbursement rates between Medicaid and other payers.

The state's Medicaid population is expected to grow under Affordable Care Act program expansions to go into effect on January 1, 2014. Therefore, it is more important than ever to ensure that services are available to all eligible Medicaid recipients. This section would further the department's ability to maintain an adequate network of accessible health care providers and assist in managing Medicaid program costs.

I thank you for your consideration and urge your support.